Department of Pesticide Regulation

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STATUS REPORT FOR FUMIGANT PESTICIDES

July, 2001

I. FUMIGANT DATA REQUIREMENTS

The development of the regulatory programs for 1,3-dichloropropene, methyl bromide, metam sodium, and other fumigant pesticides has documented the necessity of obtaining specific data characterizing the atmospheric partitioning, dispersion, and fate in order to effectively regulate fumigants. Staff are developing a data call-in for existing and anticipated new fumigants using existing authority for the registration and the reevaluation process. This should provide for the quickest means of registering and regulating new fumigant replacements for methyl bromide while protecting workers, the public, and the environment.

II. 2001 SCHEDULED AIR MONITORING

DPR has scheduled air monitoring for methyl bromide, 1,3-dichloropropene, MITC (metam sodium) and chloropicrin for the 2001 pesticide use season. The air monitoring is scheduled for July and August 2001 in Kern County and for September and October 2001 for Monterey and Santa Cruz counties. This monitoring should provide documentation of the impact of additional regulatory measures to mitigate the 2000 air monitoring levels.

III. METHYL BROMIDE

1. Risk Assessment/Data Evaluation

   - The methyl bromide exposure assessment revisions incorporating the National Academy of Science peer review comments is anticipated to be completed in August 2001. The risk characterization document for methyl bromide will be amended to include the revised exposure assessment document.

2. Risk Management Status

   - The Environmental Defense Center et al lawsuit and the Ventura County Agricultural Association et al lawsuit have been consolidated and will be heard in San Francisco. Previously, the Ventura County Agricultural Association et al had been filed in Sacramento, California.

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- DPR initiated a reevaluation of methyl bromide products June 26, 2001 because ambient air monitoring data from 2000 exceeded DPR's target exposure levels for seasonal (6 to 8 weeks) exposures. DPR is requiring methyl bromide registrants to conduct ambient air quality monitoring in specific areas to document seasonal exposures during the 2001 high use season. The Camarillo/Oxnard area of Ventura County and the Santa Maria area of Santa Barbara County are to be monitored in 2001. Sampling and analysis are described in a copy of the California Air Resources Board draft "Protocol for the 2001 Ambient Air Monitoring for Methyl Bromide, 1,3-Dichloropropene, Chloropicrin, and Metam Sodium in Kern, Monterey, and Santa Cruz Counties During Summer/Fall 2001" on DPR's Web site at: http://www.cdpr..ca.gov/docs/dprdocs/methbrom/mb_main.htm under the section entitled "Regulatory Issues."

IV. 1,3-DICHLOROPROPENE

1. Risk Assessment/Data Evaluation

- Utilizing local 1,3-dichloropropene use histories to developing future township use caps. DPR and Dow AgroSciences staff are jointly developing strategies to utilize local 1,3-dichloropropene use patterns to develop township-specific caps. Use of local data will allow some relief from the current statewide township use cap by removing some conservative default assumptions. For example, the current statewide cap assumes the worst case where the surrounding townships use are all at the cap limit. Obviously, townships adjacent to the ocean or mountains, or adjacent to townships with little or no use, are misrepresented by this worst-case scenario.

2. Risk Management Status

- Revised 1,3-dichloropropene recommended permit conditions were released June 22, 2001. These suggested conditions were reorganized and revised to provide more consistent and clear recommendations for conditioning permits. Buffer zones were standardized at a minimum of 100 feet. Greenhouse uses were eliminated and standard polyethylene tarps recommended for use when tarps are required. County agricultural commissioners will tailor county permits using these recommendations and their knowledge of local conditions.

V. CHLOROPICRIN

1. Risk Assessment/Data Evaluation

   - Chloropicrin is currently in the risk assessment process.

VI. MITC GENERATING COMPOUNDS

1. Risk Assessment/Data Evaluation

   - The DPR toxic air contaminant risk assessment for MITC will be rescheduled for public comment and presentation at a future Science Review Panel meeting.

2. Risk Management Status

   - A regulation package permanently placing metam potassium and other MITC generating chemicals on the restricted materials list has been approved. These materials were previously listed by emergency regulation.

   - A stipulated request for dismissal has been submitted to the court for approval. Approval would end the legal action filed by the Metam SodiumTask Force.

VII. POTENTIAL NEW FUMIGANTS

- DPR is currently (July 2001) waiting to receive applications for California for products containing methyl iodide and propargyl bromide. Staff have discussed registration requirements and study methodologies with consultants and have provided published studies and written protocols for guidance. A worker exposure protocol for methyl iodide is currently being reviewed by the Committee on Human Research at the University of California, San Francisco.

VIII METHYL BROMIDE ALTERNATIVES

- The request for proposals for the Pest Management Alliance Program and the Pest Management Research Program were distributed July 2001. These programs consider proposals for methyl bromide alternatives. For further information, contact Adolf Braun at (916) 324-4247, or by email at <abraun@cdpr.ca.gov>.

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has awarded a USDA/IR-4 proposal entitled "Methyl Bromide Alternatives Program for Cut Flower and Ornamental Bulb Growers in Florida and California," a grant of $334,863. The funding will be divided fairly and equitably between California and Florida.

  The project is planned as a multiyear project with both short and long-term objectives, recognizing that funding will require proposal submissions annually with no guarantees of continuation from year to year. The short-term objective will demonstrate optimum use patterns for currently available methyl bromide alternatives for improved and more consistently acceptable performance. Long-term objectives are to advance, on an accelerated schedule, the development of non-ozone depleting products that have the potential of being single or multiple product replacements for methyl bromide.